

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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PM-03 DPW-01 SCS-03 PRS-01 /056 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:JDROSENTHAL/FMLC

APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE

EA:ROAKLEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131482

LIMDIS CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN, US

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SUBJECT: US-SRV TALKS - JUNE 2 & 3, 1977

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF SUBJECT TALKS WHICH CAN BE USED
AS APPROPRIATE TO BRIEF HOST GOVERNMENTS.

2. THE SECOND ROUND OF US-SRV TALKS TO EXPLORE POSSIBILI-

TIES FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS TOOK PLACE IN PARIS JUNE 2 AND 3. THIS ROUND WAS HELD AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND INCLUDED THE SAME CHIEFS OF DELEGATION AND STAFF AS PREVIOUS ROUND IN EARLY MAY.

3. BOTH SIDES PRESENTED WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME BASIC POSITION AS PREVIOUSLY. THE U.S. REITERATED ITS PROPOSAL FOR EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF EMBASSIES AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL AND RESTATED ITS INTENTION TO LIFT THE CURRENT TRADE EMBARGO ONCE EMBASSIES ARE IN PLACE. THE SRV SOUGHT RESOLUTION OF WHAT IT CLAIMS ARE THE THREE "INTERRELATED" ISSUES: MIA'S, A U.S. "CONTRIBUTION TO HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR AND POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION IN VIETNAM;" AND NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. THE SRV PRESENTED TO THE U.S. INFORMATION ON 20 ADDITIONAL CASES OF MISSING PERSONNEL AND PROMISED TO RETURN THEIR REMAINS AT AN EARLY DATE, ALONG WITH REMAINS OF TWO EARLIER

CASES.

4. THE U.S. EXPRESSED BOTH APPRECIATION FOR THIS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND THE HOPE THAT FURTHER PROGRESS ON MIA'S WILL BE FORTHCOMING. WE MADE CLEAR THAT THE U.S. IS NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE AN AID COMMITMENT TO VIETNAM IN ANY AMOUNT, NOTING INTER ALIA THAT THIS WOULD BE AGAINST U.S. LAW. WE NOTED POSITIVE STEPS THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ALREADY TAKEN TOWARD VIETNAM, INCLUDING REMOVAL OF OUR OBJECTION TO UN MEMBERSHIP FOR THE SRV; A NEW U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD SRV PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS; AND REMOVAL OF THE BAN ON U.S. TRAVEL TO VIETNAM. WE STRESSED THE NEED TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE RATHER THAN THE PAST AND ARGUED THAT THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP WOULD BE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WHICH WOULD CREATE MORE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE DISCUSSION AND, HOPEFULLY, EVENTUAL RESOLUTION OF OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN TO BOTH SIDES.

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5. THE SRV CONTINUED TO STATE THAT IT CONSIDERS ALL ISSUES "INTERRELATED" AND THAT THE ISSUE OF A U.S. AID CONTRIBUTION MUST BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF ANY OVERALL SOLUTION. IT WAS EVIDENT THAT A USG COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE AID IS THE VITAL ISSUE, AND THAT THE AMOUNTS REQUESTED BY THE SRV WOULD BE CUT SHARPLY ONCE A COMMITMENT WERE MADE.

6. DESPITE OBVIOUS DIFFERENCES, THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND THE SRV MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WISHED TO CONTINUE THE NEW, MORE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP EVEN IF AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED. BOTH SIDES AGREED

THAT THE DIALOGUE SHOULD CONTINUE AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE A FURTHER MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE TIME AND PLACE FOR SUCH A MEETING WILL BE ARRANGED LATER. (FYI. WE DO NOT EXPECT THIS TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL. END FYI).

7. FOR BANGKOK. DURING THE TEA BREAK JUNE 3 PHAN HIEN INDICATED, IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION ON U.S. ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THAI-LAO RELATIONS, THAT THE SRV WAS READY TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH BANGKOK ON THE BASIS OF ALREADY-AGREED "FOUR PRINCIPLES". HE SAID HANOI HAD NO INTEREST IN THAI INTERNAL MATTERS, AND THAT SRV-RTG DISCUSSIONS COULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES IN VIENTIANE WHENEVER THE THAI NAMED AN AMBASSADOR OR "MORE SENIOR" CHARGE THERE TO MEET WITH SRV AMBASSADOR. HIEN SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. PASS THIS ON TO THE THAI. WE KNOW THAT THE SRV HAS ALREADY INFORMED THE RTG OF THIS
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BUT IT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THE THAI FONOFF TO KNOW THAT IT WAS RAISED IN PARIS.

8. FOR ASEAN POSTS: HOLBROOKE BRIEFED AMBASSADORS JUNE 7 ALONG THE ABOVE LINES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HE SAID THAT THE SRV HAD TOLD US IN THE MAY TALKS BUT NOT IN THE LATEST TALKS THAT IT HAD NOT SENT ANY CAPTURED US ARMS TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND WE HAD TOLD THE SRV THAT SUCH ISSUES AS VIETNAMESE RELATIONS WITH THEIR NON-COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS, TRANSFER OF ARMS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD AFFECT THE EVOLUTION OF A REAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US BUT ARE NOT A PRECONDITION TO ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

9. HOLBROOKE ALSO ASKED THEM TO CONVEY TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER BELIEVES IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE U.S. AND THE ASEAN COUNTRIES THAT NORMAL U.S.-SRV RELATIONS BE ESTABLISHED, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD NEVER BE REALLY CLOSE, AS A MEANS OF REDUCING TENSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.
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